

Notes from 10/22/2015 3:00pm Public Meeting

- **Judge Pape**
 - It is now day 10. The fire remains at 4,582 acres. It is now 85% contained.
 - Expressed gratitude for the effort from Mark Morales and the Blue Team. The Blue Team will be reassigned to another location tomorrow.
 - The Judge asks that residents hold off on intense cleaning of their properties until after the upcoming rains. The expected rainfall could cause more issues.
 - The County does not have a Public Assistance Grant yet; therefore residents are not able to leave debris at the roadway for the County to pick up. As soon as the PAG is approved; the County will put out additional dumpsters for this purpose.
 - This will be the last press conference for the Hidden Pines Fire.
 - Please refer to the Office of Emergency Management should issues arise with the upcoming rain.
 - Residents are encouraged to advise the Multi-Agency Resource Center of any needs. This assistance is not only limited to residents that lost their homes; it is also available to those that may have experienced smoke damage.
- **Mark Morales (Blue Team)**
 - Thank you to the entire team for their effort.
 - We will transfer the command to the local resources.
- **Mark Rose (Bluebonnet)**
 - There is still approximately 988 trees left to be cut down and removed.
 - A contractor will be brought in over the weekend to continue this task. This is the same contractor from the Bastrop County Complex Fire.
 - The cooperation with the agencies involved has been outstanding.
 - We are grateful to the Blue Team to have faith in our crews to allow us to go into the fire zone and repair lines.
- **Mike Fisher (Bastrop County OEM)**
 - We appreciate the Blue Team's efforts.
 - Now we are transitioning to those that need assistance.
 - Just finished the paperwork for assistance to be sent to the State which will then go to FEMA. This will determine approval for assistance to individuals and government agencies. We are hopeful that we will receive assistance soon. This will help the community recover.
 - Over the next 48 hours we are closely watching and preparing for the rainfall. We have contacted partner agencies informing them to be ready.
 - We will continue to address hot spots; however, with the upcoming rain this will likely not be a problem.
- **Sheriff Pickering**
 - The initial evacuated areas have not seen any significant issues from a law enforcement standpoint.
 - Buescher State Park will remain closed through Monday.
 - Everyone should register their phone with the Reverse 9-1-1 system at www.wireless.capcog.org. This is especially important now with the expected weather.
 - At the time of this meeting, there are 2 deputies on burn ban violation calls. Even with upcoming rain, it is important to not burn.
- **Commissioner Beckett**
 - The damage assessment is complete. There are approximately 6000 trees that have been identified as a threat to public roads and right-of-ways. These trees must be removed. It is estimated that this will cost \$1.6 Million. Pending approval from Commissioner's Court on

Monday, we will find a way to pay for this from the County budget. Otherwise, we will receive reimbursement if the Public Assistance Grant is approved.

- We have approximately 11000 cubic feet of metal debris.
- The roll-off dumpsters for debris should come on Monday.
- **Kate Johnston (Citizen Services)**
 - There are two functions at the Resource Center located at 108 Main Street in Smithville.
 - Volunteer Resource Center – Those wishing to volunteer can come and register and/or get assignments.
Opened daily from 8:00am – 6:00pm
 - Multi-Agency Resource Center – Affected residents should register and receive resources/services for needs.
Opened daily from 8:00am – 8:00pm
 - We had a steady flow of residents registering at the Multi-Agency Resource Center.
- **Andrea Richardson (Bluebonnet Trails MHMR)**
 - We are concerned about citizens that have been affected by this fire and those that may be going through this for the 2nd time.
 - We have point-in-time and long term crisis counseling.
 - At times, citizens may need trauma services at a later date.
 - The Crisis Hot Line for BBT MHMR is 1-800-841-1255.
 - BBT MHMR employees plan to reach out to those affected for services needed.
 - This information will remain confidential.